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PROPOSAL

FOR

The Farming

OF

*Worshipful* R

LICENCE

TO USE

No Conscience  
AT ALL.

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LONDON,

Printed in the Year, MDCLXIII.

PROPOSAL

OF

THE

TO USE

NO CONCERN

AT ALL

LONDON

Printed in the Year, MDCCXIII

75

# A PROPOSAL, &c.

**S**INCE this Nation cannot be ignorant, that we of the Faithful Honest Party for many years last past, have wasted our Patrimonies, have sat up whole nights, and myriads of nights, swearing, and smoking, and drinking, and soaking in Sack and in Ale, both raw and butter'd; all which we did upon design to promote the Common Good: And since it is apparent, that many of us have no reward for these most meritorious Services, inasmuch that our great spreading Plumes are shrivell'd, and moulter'd into one single yard of 4 d. Ribbon; that our Pockets instead of money are full to hold the dirty scraps of Bread and Cheese; that our Swords, like the dreadful Weapon of Captain Bessier, are by our Enemies meeterly careen'd up into knives, that our Cloaths in general are so bedaub'd with distillations from the Pint-pot, that they smell more strong then a Brewers Apron: We out of an Heroick Indignation can no longer patiently endure these most ungodly persecutions, but humbly implore, that the means hereafter proposed may be listned and yielded to, that there may be some Alleviation of our miseries, and that we may once more be restored to our transcendent Nobilitating Elements of Sack and Ale, whereby our drooping Spirits will be again set aloft, to the utter confusion of all the Small-Beer Presbyterians, Anabaptists, Fifth-Monarchy-men, and Quakers, and of all the Coffee-drinking-Commonwealths-men, and Harringtonians.

Our Proposal and Petition is, That whereas this Nation through our assiduous endeavours does now abound with the Honourable Gentle Qualities of drinking, swearing, whoring, cheating, &c. no person for the future may indulge either his pleasure or profit, by exercising himself in any of them, unless he has a special Warrant or License by some eminent Assembly of us met to this purpose, under the notion and title of *Commissioners, &c.* Which Commissioners being to be composed of eight or ten of those Dams-blades, who own the profession of the Sword, as many Cheats and Broken Gamesters of any common Dicing-Ordinary, with some of the rank Flesh-flies and Smell-Smocks, and other strong Drunkards of the Town, shall have power under the Farm-rent of 200000 l. *per annum* to the State, to make every man compound according to the rates here under specified, for his particular liberty to drink, whore, swear, lye and cheat, and all other the like extravagancies.

That such a number of Commissioners being found out and nominated, may be authorized to set up one publick Office at the — — Tavern in *Covent-Garden*, or elsewhere; with power to constitute under-Officers, as Registers, Clerk, Porter, &c. and that the said Commissioners may have a common Seal, known by the name of *The Great Seal of the Commissioners and Fervors of the Liberty of having no Conscience*, engraven either with a *Die Slurrant*, or a *Tongue Swearant*, or a *Mouth Spuant*, or a *Plush-coat Papuant*, it matters not which; and with this Motto, *Lucri bonus odor est et Qualiter*,

here under specified.

*Rates to be observed in all Compositions for Liberty of having no Conscience.*

For Liberty to swear in general. 06 00 00

For grand thundering Oaths in particular. 04 00 00

For small mimical Oaths: as when we swear by our Honor, or Virginity, or Truth, or Reputation, or Honesty, or Conscience, or Faith: or by any such abstracted Notional Fiction, which never was, nor never will be *in esse*. 02 00 00

For Cursing in general. 05 00 00

For fine small ingenious Curses. 01 00 00

For loud Curses. 04 00 00

For Imprecations, as, *God damn my Soul, the Devil suck my Soul through a Tobacco-Pipe, &c.* 03 00 00

For Congratulations when friends meet, and say, *God confound your Soul (Dick) for a Son of a Whore; how dost do? When didst thou see Mistress Susan at the sign of the —* 04 00 00

For the privilege of Lying or Romancing. 05 00 00

For being drunk with Sack. 02 00 00

For being drunk with Ale, (unless with Cock-Ale, or China-Ale) 09 00 00

For a License to compile & sing gross bawdy songs. 02 00 00

For lying with common Park whores. 03 00 00

For debauching Citizens Wives, &c. 06 00 00

For belying honest Women, saying, *That such a Lady loves me, and such a Lady gave me to many pair of Silk Stockins, or such a Ring, or such a Suit of Lac'd Linnen, or so much money for satisfying her Appetite.* 12 00 00

For the privilege of being a rank Cheat in general. 20 00 00

For Dodging at Cards in particular, as, for Cutting or Shuffling with a broad Card, or a smooth Card, or a crooked Card. 02 00 00

For a Liberty to play at Cribbage, or Putt, and one and thirty with six or seven Cards. 02 00 00

For Slurring, or Knapping, or striking a Die out of hand. 04 00 00

For Palming and Fingering a Die. 03 00 00

For

For holding one or two Dice at the top of a Dice Box, which we Gamblers call Topping.	04	00	00
For having our consent to use all sorts of false Dice, as <i>Quater Deux</i> aces, <i>Cinq tray</i> aces, <i>Size quater Deuxes</i> , <i>Bar size</i> aces, <i>high Fullams</i> , <i>low Fullams</i> , &c.	05	00	00
For privilege to borrow money upon Parol; with an honest intention never to pay.	04	00	00
For a Liberty to baffle a young Coxcomb out of his money, or Watch, or so.	03	00	00
For the precious faculty of borrowing a Cloak of a Civil Person, under pretence of rainy Weather, or foul Linnen, with a resolution to pawn it at the next Broakett.	02	00	00
For a privilege to break any oath or promise whatsoever, upon any motive or consideration.	01	00	00
For making it a common practice to retreat out of Taverns with sword in hand, promising to pay next time.	02	00	00
For common bilking of a bawdy house when money is gone, and no Dinner to be had any where else.	01	06	03
For making it a practice to kiss women in the street when a sudden drunken motion pricketh forward.	01	00	00
For having a Liberty to huff up and down, and pretend to Land and Estate, talking of Tenants, Rents, Servants, Horses, Dogs, &c.	05	00	00
For having a liberty to drop shillings in the street, thereby to draw in silly Prentices and Country Fellows to be chous'd of their single money.	01	00	00
For liberty to set up or hold a <i>Leagner</i> or <i>society</i> of <i>Baud</i> , <i>Whore</i> , & <i>Hellor</i> ; such as we see represented in the Comedy called, <i>The Knave in Grain</i> .	10	00	00
Item, For a Liberty to Coyn, or take a Purse, when money is to be gotten no other ways.	20	00	00

That immediately Proclamation may be made, That all *Hellors*, *Low-Country-Captains*, *Broken Citizens*, *Gentlemen of the High-way*, *Cheats*, *Drunkards*, *Swearers*, *Cursers*, *Wenchers*, *Lyars*, &c. shall appear before the said Commissioners at the place appointed as aforesaid, and there compound according to the precedent rates, for their illegal and unchristian ways of profit, pleasure, and vain glory.

That as the said Commissioners shall have power to assess the said Rates on.

priviledges; so when any of the Brethren are fallen into a dverfity, they shall have authority to allow a competent sum to any of them, for a *Radix*, or *pung-tum Salinis* to their future Fortunes.

That in some Cases the Commissioners shall have liberty to gratifie and reward the Gallantillo's for any notable Action done, so it come within the limits of their inspection.

*Rewards for brave and Generous Actions.*

As where a man drinking the Kings Health, flings his Hat in the fire, though the Hat be worth but  
2 s. 6. d. } 02 00 00

Item, Where the Fort being known to be full of most consuming Wild-fire, is yet enter'd by some Eager-courag'd man. } 04 00 00

Item, Where a man in *Cupids* Battels has lost the use of his Limbs, and has his Nose Moth-eaten with the *Lues Venerea*. } 06 00 00

Item, Where a Gentleman kills any Sergeant or Bayliff; (which Generation in all future times shall be by us accounted as *Woolferibod, qui gerunt Capita Lupina*.) } 10 00 00

Item, Where a company of Swa-shado's beat the Watch. } 15 00 00

Item, Where a man inspi'd with Bacchanalian fury breaks the windows of a whole street. } 02 00 00

Item, If he do it with his hands, and his hands are cut with the Gla's. } 03 00 00

*Et ubi eadem est ratio, ibi eris eadem Lex.*

That no man be admitted to compound for having no Conscience as above-said, before he hath subscribed the solemn Protestation following:

I A. B. do hereby solemnly protest, that I judge my self bound, as I am a Gentleman well descended, not to yield my self a Captive to the Jaws of Poverty, nor to attend the leisure or delay of any honest employment, but rather to cheat, rob, or Hells-vize, or plough my maintenance out of the lust of any loose Woman, whether she be Maid, Wife or Widow, of the City or Country. That as I am a good Orthodox Commonwealths man. I am obliged to keep up the Honourable Customs of drinking, swearing and smoking, and to confound all vile Fanaticks with the fierce Gunpowder of swelling Oaths, and with most pregnant mickle courage drawn from the operation and energy of Sack: And though I do intend to carry a pretty plausible Gentle Outside, yet my Resolutions are, for ever to banish the thoughts of Real Honour, or Conscience, or Religion, as meer fantastical Ideas, and Chimerical Notions *supra nos*, and so *nihil ad nos*.

Also I do believe, that the Constitution of this Honourable Society of Commissioners, is very agreeable to our present necessities; and that 'tis therefore grounded on Reason *supra* amount to that of any positive Law, and so ought inevitably to be observed.

That



That no person taking this Protestation, and compounding as abovesaid, shall be questioned for any of the precedent Misdemeanors in any Court Spiritual or Temporal; but shall be discharged upon proof made of the said Composition, *On sur Monstans d'Escrips South Seal del dits Commissioners.*

That Letters Congratulatory may be sent to the Pope, to certify the actual approbation of the English for his taking tribute from the Stews; seeing that upon the same grounds is built the Superstructure of this Honourable Assembly of Commissioners, &c. with the Revenue and Profits accreuing to the State thereby.

That no Common Players (truly so called) be obliged or compelled to compound according to the Rates abovesaid, because they were long ago virtually incorporated into this Society by the Statute.

That if any man fear to be Robbed, or Cheated, or to have his Wife whor'd, &c. in case he repair to the said Commissioners, they shall execute the Office of *Mal Cut-purse*, and for a small sum of money shall secure him, by good pledges, from any such loss or damage.

That for the future no person or persons, having compounded as abovesaid, shall be branded with any names of ignominy or scandal, as heretofore; but that such as are common Hectors, Cheats, Padders, or Coiners, shall be called, *Ingenious Persons that live by their Wits*: and such as are notorious Sots and Drunkards, shall be characteriz'd to be *Good well-meaning honest Fellows*: and such as are grand Horners and Fornicators, shall modestly be termed, *Amorous Persons*: and those who are given to lying, shall be called *Romancers or Historians*.

That if any man who has compounded as abovesaid, loose 3 s. 6. d. at any Gaming Ordinary, it shall be lawful for him to look fowre, and curse exceedingly, and swear to the next man he meets, that he has lost 5 l. and to the next man, that he has lost 10 l. and to the next man, that he has lost 20 l. and so under pretence of the said fictitious loss, to thrust along with any Company into a Tavern, and come off Scot-free.

That the Commissioners shall and may appoint several private Committees at confiding Ale-houses, &c. to give in intelligence of young Novices and Bubbles, that have no mere wit or brains then to be cheated; what sums of money are moving upon the Road; what City Madams there are of easie wanton inclinations; what Taylors and Tradesmen are gifted with a *Pterophoria*, or fulness of Faith; where is the best Liquor, be it Wine, Ale, Cyder, Choccolatta, &c.

That it being the misfortune of many Hectors, Drunkards and Leachers, who pretend to sufferings for Loyalty, to grow poor, so that their Coats (whether Plush or Cloth) their Horses, Watches, Rings, Swords, Boots, with other Vestments, Appendants, and Appurtenances; were said to be Mortgaged in Ale-houses, in Taverns, and Brokers Wardrobes; there may be so much money immediately deposited by the State as will redeem them; to the end that such worthy Personages may no longer look like the Epitomes of a Sh-p-wrack, or old-hatch Hilt, here a spot of Silver; and there a spot of Rust.

That it shall not be lawful for any Door-keeper at a Play-house to deny entrance to such persons as have compounded as abovesaid; in case any one of the persons swear *God Damme* with a clear and audible voice eight times; and also in case he call the said Door-keeper *Son of a Whore*, and kick him one and twenty times.

That

That the Commissioners and their Composition-men may have free privilege to baffle, out-talk, cut-swear, and cut-face any of those Maidenly mouth'd people whom they call Fanaticks, or any who dares mention the word *Confession*, or pronounce a Text of Scripture in their company: that in case any one persist in such babble or impertinence, they may lawfully kick or flab him; or upon the most moderate terms spit or throw a glass of drink in his face; and so with solemn censure excommunicate him out of the pale of their Society.

That the said Commissioners may be licensed to hold this following Opinion as probable and Orthodox: *Videlicet:*

That Satan being nothing else but a certain Accumulation or Primitive Stock of Evil, whatsoever wickedness is perpetrated by Mortals, must necessarily be a subtraction from his Essence; and the more men sin and transgress, the more they diminish and spend upon his substance; till at length when their confessional spy-glass Natures have suck'd up all iniquity, it is impossible there should any Devil be left at all, in regard he will be totally devour'd, swallowed up, and extinguish'd.

And that, upon this sublime consideration, the said Commissioners and their Profelites may be lookt upon as friends to Religion, because they take the readiest course to vanquish and annihilate her oldest and greatest Antagonist.

That in case all, or the most essential part of these Proposals are not granted us; our credits with Taylors and Taverns will be clearly bankrupt; and our wains having bereav'd us both of our Pesiwigs and Linnen, Nature, Necessity and Desperation, will oblige us to grow sullen and Religious, and to fall into some melancholy Sect, like that of the Quakers, wholly opposite to Hectoring, and most Antipodian to the Town Gallantry: in which condition, 'tis very probable we shall become Factious, and shall study bitter Investives, and dangerous Principles against the Government, &c.

That therefore we ought to be considered, and our Proposals yielded to, not only in regard of services past, but of inconveniences to come. And we furthermore promise, That whatsoever we do, within the limits aforesaid, shall all be unto Loyal ends, as far as the nature of things will permit: so that when we drink our liquor with a gusto; when we cheat, or coin, or take a Pusse; when we kiss, embrace, hug, and ——— to an high extrasy of pleasure; when we swear like Gentlemen of Rank, Curse, Damn, Sink, take our Swinges in all manner of Rants, carpalities and debauches, though we enjoy the sensual earthy part of them, yet shall we ever dedicate the pure notional abstracted Ideas of them to the prosperity of that glorious Interest, for which (in the Barrels of *Cupid* and *Bacchus*) we have so long contended. And we shall always endeavor to blast the thin estimate Souls of the Fanaticks with the strong tincture of Sack and Tobacco, which does fire in a very useful mixture and coagulation firm between our Laws. Nor will we be remiss in striving by all means imaginable to explode the Heretical Opinion in the Poll-tricks, called *Democracy*, as a Device which we find to be built upon inconsistent contradictory Foundations, *v. z. Rotation and the Balance*: For upon sensible experience we know, that when Rotation is in the Head or Brain, there can be no balance in the heels.

Finally, if nothing else will avail, we will combine to lime and pitch out the fire, which lies rak'd up in these mischievous Embers of Civil Dissension. Nor do we care though they make a great *Whiff* when we first go about it, because the said Embers being totally extinguished, we do propose to our selves to dance and tumble, and frolique it in the ashes.



